involves an amendment of the Municipal Regulation. The papers have been accordingly sent to the Additional Head Sirkar Vakil to incorporate the necessary amendments in the draft amendment Bill to the Municipal Regulation, which is now being prepared by him. The work will be expedited.

As regards the widening of the road from the College junction to Bhaktivilas, and the other roads referred to by you, the matter will be looked into. Your representation as regards the supply of water to the town resolves itself into a question of finance and is noted for consideration.

The question of restricting the work of the Ayurveda Pharmacy at Trivandrum in the matter of preparing medicines for public sale is under correspondence. Your remarks on the subject will be duly considered when orders are passed.

As you yourself have said, the question of drainage is one closely connected with the water-supply scheme. Regarding the repairs to the existing drains, the Chief Engineer tells me that the work is being attended to once in every three or four years, and that the defects are being remedied. This year also there is a budget allotment of Rs. 5,000, which, I think, will be sufficient to meet immediate requirements.

Re. the provision of additional sites for latrines, when a resolution of the Municipal Council comes up before the Government on that subject, the matter will be considered.

VIII. MISCELLANEOUS.—(*Continued.*)

119. Appointment of a Cabinet of three Ministers jointly elected by the members of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly and the Legislative Council to help in the Administration of Travancore.

Mr. G. Raman Menon M. A., B. L. (Member, Karunagapalli taluk) said that he had already pointed out in 1093 and 1097 the necessity of giving the representatives of the people real power in determining the policy and working of the administration of the State. His suggestion was to appoint the people's nominee as the Chief Minister, which he said was the practice in former days. He further emphasised that the highest executive officers of the State should be responsible not only to the Sovereign but also to the representatives of the people. He proceeded to mention the evils of the present one-man government and stated that the only remedy was the establishment of responsible government. His proposal was to hold a conference of the representatives of the chief communities and interests in the State in the shape of a joint session of the non-official members of the Legislative Council and the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly, who should be asked to recommend three Ministers for helping in the Administration of the State, provision being made for guarding against communal jealousies by making one of the ministers a non-Hindu, another a non-caste Hindu and another a caste-Hindu or, in other words, a Christian, an Ezhava and a Nayar, those being the chief communities. The power of overruling such recommendations and appointing others should vest in His Highness the Maha Raja or the Paramount Power. His point was that the representatives of the people should under normal conditions be in a position to exercise a salutary influence in bringing Government servants of all grades to a proper sense of their position and responsibilities.

With regard to giving practical effect to the above suggestion the Member proposed that, when the non-official members of the two bodies met, they could elect a President or meet under the presidency of the Dewan ; candidates should be proposed for the leading Ministership and the successful candidate should in his turn name the gentlemen he would like to have as his colleagues ; and finally, the group or groups should be voted upon. When a vacancy arose in the Ministry, it should be filled on the recommendation of the leading Minister. When a vote of want of confidence was passed in any session of the representatives of the people, the Ministry should resign immediately. The first Ministry to be established should formulate a scheme of constitutional reform for the State. They should, either by themselves or by means of a Committee appointed by the Sovereign in consultation with the ministers formulate a scheme of constitutional reform and submit the same to the

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decision of a joint session of the non-official members of the representative assemblies. All constitutional questions, *e. g.*, whether there should be one representative assembly or two, the franchise, communal representation, etc., should be settled by means of such consultation.

He added that such representatives would consider it a great honour and privilege to work under the present Dewan till such time as he proposed to retire from his present onerous position.

The Member in conclusion requested the Dewan to submit his suggestion before His Highness the Maha Raja and let the representatives of the people know His Highness' commands as early as possible. He also submitted that the suggestion be put to the vote of the Assembly and the result of the voting communicated to His Highness the Maha Raja.

President's repty.—The only answer that I can just now give is that your representation has been noted by the Government.

Member.—I only request that the matter be submitted to His Highness the Maha Raja.

President.—You are sending in a memorial ; let that also come.

120. Some urgent needs of the Karunagapalli Taluk.

Mr. G. Raman Menon M. A., B. L. (Member, Karunagapalli taluk) began by saying that the Government were not treating all the taluks of the State fairly and justly in the matter of providing roads and other public conveniences. He pointed out that the distribution of public funds for public purposes should be made only after considering the actual needs, the revenue, and the amount already spent for public works in each taluk. The proportion could be varied if necessary for proper reasons at regular intervals of about 5 years.

Karunagapalli, especially the portion comprising the northern *pakuthies* of it, had long been neglected by the Government in the matter of public works, though that area was among the most densely populated portions of the State and furnished a greater amount of revenue to the State than most other areas of equal extent. He therefore prayed that the Government might allot fairly large sums annually for public works in that area. He also represented that the present method of spending the amounts allotted for public works was not at all satisfactory. The P. W. D. often prepared plans and estimates for works without adequate knowledge of local conditions and without consulting the local inhabitants. As a result, many roads, bridges and culverts had been washed away during floods. He said that two bridges and culverts and portions of roads in Krishnapuram *pakuthi* alone had been thus destroyed. He requested that the level of the bridge which was being constructed there might be raised by at least four feet fixed for it. He complained that the gradient of the bridge on the village road from Putuppalli to Kayankulam was too steep for safe footing in rainy weather. The matter was brought to the notice of the P. W. D. authorities, who nailed reapers to the planks of the bridge. This proved a source of great annoyance to passers-by whose feet were often hurt by the projecting reapers. He next pointed out that, in the low-lying taluks on the eastern side of the backwaters, roads from the shore of the backwaters towards the east were more necessary than those from north to south. Long roads from north to south were a luxury, while the former was a necessity. He requested the Government to remember that fact in their future schemes of public works.

As regards the roads required in the north-western *pakuthies* of Putuppalli, Perinad and Kulasekharapuram, he said that one important road for each *pakuthi* might be taken up and finished as soon as practicable. The roads required for the area in the order of urgency were:—

(1) a road from Putuppalli to Krishnapuram;
(2) a road from Ayiramtengu to Ochira; and
(3) a road from Todiyil to Vallikkavu *via* Kulasekharapuram.

The Member then submitted a list of public works needed in the northern *pakuthies*. He said that the following roads had to be made cartable:—

(1) a road, one mile long, from Krishnapuram due west to the shore of the Kayankulam lake, with two bridges over canals;

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